(a) whether the South West Railway Employees Congress has demanded the *creation of a new railway zone for Karnataka*; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. However, a representation in this regard from the South Central Railway Employees' Congress has been received.

(b) This matter is under consideration of the Government.

Railway Projects in Karnataka

2967. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several railway projects in Karnataka are pending despite feasibility surveys conducted by the Government; and

(b) if so, the full details thereof and the details of the projects of Karnataka which are likely to be completed during the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The following projects in Karnataka will be completed during next few years.

(i) Bangalore—Mysore gauge conversion.

(ii) Chitradurg—Rayadurg New MG line.

(iii) Part of Konkan Railway in Karnataka from Mangalore side.

New Oil and Gas Policy

2968. *SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:*
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for a new oil and gas policy in tune with internationalisation of the economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Newspaper reports to this effect have come to Government's notice. The Government of India has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for intensifying exploration for oil and gas in sedimentary basins in India.

[*Translation*]

Extension of Indore Terminal Platform

2969. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of the proposed railway terminal in Indore is likely to be completed;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the length of the existing platform or to construct a new platform there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?